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CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Certifies Seventh Initiative For Special Election Ballot

Second Prescription Drug Discount Measure Qualifies.

Sacramento -- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today the qualification of the seventh initiative for the November 8 statewide special election ballot, the second to deal with prescription drug discounts.

Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates. Initiative Statute. The measure, sponsored by Anthony Wright of Sacramento, would, according to the title and summary from the Attorney General, provide for prescription drug discounts to Californians who qualify based on income-related standards, to be funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by California Department of Health Services; rebates must be deposited in the State Treasury fund, used only to reimburse pharmacies for discounts and to offset administration costs; at least 95% of rebates must go to fund discounts; prohibit new Medi-Cal contracts with manufacturers not providing the Medicaid best price to this program, except for drugs without a therapeutic equivalent; establish an oversight board; and make prescription drug profiteering, as defined, unlawful.

The measure needed a projected 411,198 registered voter signatures to qualify based on the random sample verifications; it received a projected 417,067 registered voter signatures. Proponent Anthony Wright's phone number is 916-442-2308.

According to the California Constitution, qualified initiatives go before voters in a statewide election held at least 131 days from the date they qualify. The qualification of this additional measure means seven measures have now qualified for the November 8 statewide special election ballot. The other six are: 1) Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; 2) Public Employee Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions. Initiative Statute; 3) Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal. Initiative Statute; 4) School Funding. State Spending. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; 5) Reapportionment. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; and 6) Prescription Drugs. Discounts. Initiative Statute.

County election officials are verifying one more initiative that relates to regulation of electric service providers. If it qualifies by the June 30th deadline, it will be added to the special election ballot.